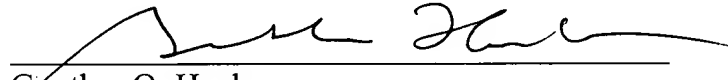


suggested by a reference that is merely concerned with the expansion of obstructions in vessels or the temporary isolation of a portion of a blood vessel wall from contact with the blood flow (col. 1, lines 3-6).

Claims 10, 11, 12 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Voelker in view of Carr (U.S.P.N. 4,808,165). In view of the non-obviousness of the underlying independent Claim 8, as was argued above, it is respectfully submitted that any claim depending therefrom must similarly be patentable.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants earnestly believe the application to now be in condition for allowance and respectfully request that it be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,
FULWIDER PATTON LEE & UTECHT, LLP

By: 
Gunther O. Hanke
Registration No. 32,989

200 Oceangate, Suite 1550
Long Beach, CA 90802
Telephone: (562) 432-0453
Facsimile: (562) 435-6014
Customer No. 27629
8306.1